



Date: August 6, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Weekly Update Ending August 6, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending August 6, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

City Manager

Representatives from Fire, Police, Health and the City Manager's office participated in the national, state and local Homeland Security Exercise on August 5 and 6.

Community Development, Workforce Development Bureau

The Workforce Development Task Force offered an "Outreach to the Homeless Training" on August 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Health Department. The workshop was designed to help participants learn about the homeless population, effective outreach strategies, and how mental health plays a role in homelessness.

Harbor Department

Bolstering an already strong commitment to reduce harbor-area emissions, the Port of Long Beach and Sound Energy Solutions (SES) have agreed to partner on a pilot program that will test the effectiveness of shipping terminal tractors powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in a marine environment.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners' Development Committee on August 2 approved the demonstration project as part of its Healthy Harbor program, which promotes the use of alternative fuels by Port tenants to improve air quality.

The six-month, \$600,000 project will evaluate the performance of LNG in three tractors or "yard hostlers," moving cargo containers at the Long Beach Container Terminal.

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Library Services

The Main Library hosted a visit from Martha Siv on July 29. Martha is the wife of Ambassador Sichan Siv and she is also a librarian, working as the Senior Knowledge-Sharing Officer at the World Bank Institute in Washington D.C. Martha's husband, Sichan Siv, is the U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. She was visiting Long Beach to attend a Cambodian Chamber of Commerce event honoring her husband.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Community Development, Housing Services Bureau

The Housing Services Bureau announces the Grand Opening of Grisham Community Housing, a 96-unit affordable housing development for very-low income families in North Long Beach. The Grand Opening will be held on Thursday, September 2, at 10 a.m. Grisham Community Housing includes a new outdoor park and landscaped courtyard, a Tot Lot, a half-court basketball court, a community center and a childcare center serving up to 50 families. The development is supported by the City's housing funds and by State and Federal funds.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On Sunday, August 8, the Neighborhood Leadership Falcons will host a community project at MacArthur Park Homeland Cultural Center. Participants of this beautification project will plant flowers around the Tot Lot and on Warren Avenue.

PUBLIC SAFETY STATS

Fire Department

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,103 emergency calls for service: 115 calls were for fires and 20 involved structures. The Department also responded to 708 emergency medical calls; 478 of those calls required paramedics.

On July 28, a fire in a paint scrubber in the 1700 block of Harbor Avenue was extinguished with the help of the Fire Department's thermal imager to ensure complete extinguishment.

On August 3, a big rig truck lost control on the northbound Bellflower Boulevard off ramp of the 405 Freeway and crashed through the backyard of a home in the 2600 block of Marber Avenue. Although there was extensive property damage, there were no reported injuries. Electrical power in the neighborhood was interrupted for approximately three hours.

NEIGHBORHOODS

City Manager

Last spring, the City received 5,000 free gunlock safety kits for distribution to residents. These cable-style gunlocks have been made available to the public through all police substations, community police centers, and the Neighborhood Resource Center. This program has proven to be overwhelmingly successful, as over half of the gunlock kits have already been distributed. If you are planning a community event and would like gunlocks to be made available to the public, please contact the Police Department's Community Relations Division at 570-7215.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services/Redevelopment Bureau

July 1 was the kick off date for the newest North Long Beach Redevelopment Neighborhood Enhancement Area (NEA). Coolidge Triangle Area property owners are eligible to apply for the Home Improvement Rebate Program and the Security Lock and Security Lighting Programs until January 1. These programs are funded by the Redevelopment Agency and administered by the Neighborhood Services Bureau.

On July 14 and 24, over 100 North Long Beach Coolidge Triangle residents attended informational workshops about Community Development's Home Improvement Rebate Programs and Residential Rehabilitation Loans at Coolidge Park. Forty members of the North Long Beach Coolidge Park Neighborhood Association received program information at their monthly meeting. Staff collected 25 applications at these events.

Fire Department

On August 4, Friends of Long Beach Animals donated pet-sized oxygen masks to 21 Long Beach fire stations. The masks are designed to save the life of a house pet in an emergency situation.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The roof of the Skylinks Golf Course clubhouse is being replaced and approximately 500 sq. ft. of space is being added to the building. The new waterfall between the first and tenth tee is under construction.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Accessibility improvements progressed at Silverado Park, with the closure of the playground for improvements scheduled through August 24. Community center restrooms will be closed from August 9 through August 16 for accessibility improvements. Construction on accessibility improvements is continuing at MacArthur Park. The improvements are scheduled for completion in early October.

Construction is continuing at the Houghton Park Skate Park. Due to ground water problems, some of the early stages of construction fell behind schedule and the revised target for completion is now mid-September. Construction is continuing at Officer Daryle W. Black Memorial Park and is on schedule for completion in late September.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Workforce Development Bureau

The County Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation joined the Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) this week as the newest partners in providing workforce development services to young persons in Long Beach. Four County staff stationed at the YOC will focus on providing transitional services to foster youth participating in the County's Independent Living Program, connecting to the YOC's other programs and services.

Community Development, Workforce Development Bureau

In addition to the Long Beach youth participating in the Workforce Development Bureau's Summer Jobs and related programs, more than 1,800 youth visited the YOC during the month of July, accessing job referrals and employer recruitments, volunteer and service learning opportunities, internships, health and education information, referrals to community-based resources, and the assessment resource center.

The Career Transition Center (CTC) has introduced new topics to its regular employment assistance workshops. In addition to traditional resume, interviewing, and job search technique sessions, workshops will include Skills Identification, Establishing Career Goals, Financial Management During Career Transition, Anger/Stress Management, Conflict Resolution in the Workplace, and ADA Disclosure Issues. Resident participation in weekly CTC workshops was up 67% in the last month.

The July recruitments at the Workforce Development Business Services Center, which assist local businesses with hiring needs, included pre-screening and placement services for Union Bank, Verizon, Dreyfuss Construction, Red Barn Pet Products, Northwest Services, Gladstone's 4 Fish, and Walgreen's.

Through a statewide grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, the CTC is currently outreaching to residents who have lost their jobs due to downsizing or business closures in industries related to transportation, i.e. aerospace, trucking, shipping, airlines, and related security. Customized services, including job retraining, are available for eligible residents.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Health Department

On July 24, Friends of the Long Beach Animals honored the Long Beach Animal Control with a display commemorating the role the agency played in saving the life of a World War I war dog hero, Taki. For four years, the Belgian sheepdog worked with the French army, carrying coded messages to the front lines. Although Taki died in the 1920's, the Animal Control Division at that time played a role in saving Taki's life.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

The Long Beach Municipal Band roared through the 20's & 30's, with over 5,150 people in attendance. The concerts began with music of the "Roarin' 20's" dance tunes and concluded with Gershwin, Ellington, and Berlin. Vocalist Christine Day closed each evening with the Studio Band.

More than 230 people attended the production of "Clean-Up Your Act," by the International Children's Traveling Theatre. The International City Theater is a professional theater group partnering with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine to provide a quality theater experience for children and families. The program offered children the opportunity to experience instruction in acting, music, mime, and movement taught by industry professionals.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The annual Dragon Boat Race, one of the largest boat events held in Long Beach each year, bringing six thousand participants and spectators, was held at Marine Stadium.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Tafesilafa'I Festival, with an estimated attendance of 5,000, was held on July 30 and continued through August 1, at the Queen Mary Events Park.

A "Jazz by the Bay" concert, with an estimated attendance of 2500, was held August 5, at the Queen Mary Events Park.

The ESPN X-Games, with an estimated attendance of 5,000, was held on August 6 and will continue August 7, at Marine Stadium.

Warner Bros. TV, with a cast and crew of 180, filmed "Jack and Bobby" on August 3, at Cabrillo High School.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

City Manager/Financial Management

On June 1, the City Council authorized a User Fee Study to be undertaken by Public Resource Management (PRM) in two phases. The study will identify revenue opportunities for budgetary purposes and develop a consistent costing

methodology to be applied citywide. The Study will be completed within 18 to 24 months.

Phase One of this study is underway and preliminary findings are positive. City staff and PRM are optimistic that opportunities for new fees and/or fee increases will be identified for consideration in the FY 2005 budget adoption process. These are in addition to fee increases being proposed in the FY 20 05 budget.

This Study is in accordance with City Council-adopted Financial Policies in consideration of revenue requirements outlined in the City's Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan. The Budget Oversight Committee requested that reports be developed every three years or less that detail the full costs (operating, direct, indirect and capital) of providing services supported by user fees.

Phase One consists of a macro-level expedited review of costs compared to revenues, also referred to as a "gap analysis," to identify opportunities or substantiate projected fee revenues. PRM has reviewed the budgets and met with staff from the Planning & Building Department, Fire Department and the Environmental Bureau of the Health Department. PRM also met with Management Partners regarding its code enforcement study.

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

The Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,908 service calls. This total included 1,030 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons and 759 Turn Offs, as well as 874 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders and verifying read orders. A total of 245 meter maintenance and billing related orders were completed. Of the total number of service calls received, 114 customer emergency orders were completed.

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Weekly Update 8/6/2004.doc

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